

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed September 5, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-16, 20, 25, 26, 31, 34 and 37-40 were last presented for examination. Claims 10-15 and 37-40 were allowed, and claims 1-9, 16, 20, 25, 26, 31 and 34 were rejected in the outstanding Office Action. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 1, 16, 26, 31 and 34 have been amended. Claim 41 has been added and claims 20 and 25 have been cancelled. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-16, 26, 31, 34 and 37-41 will be pending in this application. Of these twenty-four (24) claims, eight (8) claims (claims 1, 10, 16, 26, 31, 34, 37 and 39) are independent.
2. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

3. Applicants acknowledge receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 10-15 and 37-40 recite allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections

5. Independent claims 1 and 16 and dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, 20 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,775,131 to Hanson (hereinafter, "Hanson"). Additionally, independent claims 26 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,399,317 to Van Dyk, Jr. (hereinafter, "Van Dyk, Jr.") Independent claims 1 and 31 and dependent claim 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,078,054 to Miles (hereinafter, "Miles"). Based on the above Amendments and following

Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

6. Hanson is analogous to the conventional approaches identified in the Background Section of Applicant's application. As noted therein, “[t]o prevent, or at least minimize, EMI radiation from escaping or entering a blade system, each blade typically includes a handle, filler panel, bulkhead or other structure (hereinafter collectively referred to as a “bulkhead”) that includes an EMI shield. The bulkhead is configured and sized such that, when the blade is installed in a chassis, the bulkhead fills the opening, through which the blade was installed. Surfaces, edges, flanges or other structures (hereinafter collectively referred to as “surfaces” or “mating surfaces”) on the perimeter of the bulkhead are generally configured to mate with corresponding surfaces around the perimeter of the opening when the blade is installed in the chassis. Unfortunately, even strict manufacturing tolerances have proven insufficient to adequately prevent EMI radiation from passing through gaps between these mating surfaces. Therefore, a resilient, electrically-conductive EMI gasket is often attached to the perimeter surfaces of either the bulkhead or the structures that define the opening. Thus, when the blade is installed, the EMI gasket is compressed between mating surfaces of the bulkhead and the opening. (Hereinafter, a “surface” or “mating surface” also includes an EMI gasket, if one is present at a point or line of contact between a bulkhead or opening and another object.)” (*See, Applicants' application, pg. 1, ln. 30 – pg. 2, ln. 18.*) Similarly, in the device of Hanson, an EMI gasket is squeezed between two mating surfaces to prevent the leakage of EMI from between the mating surfaces.

7. However, this is not analogous to Applicants' claimed invention. First, the claimed mechanism is for “sealing a space anterior to a surface, thereby inhibiting or preventing passage of EMI radiation through the space,” while the claimed mechanism comprises: a first and second jaw with a resilient EMI gasket disposed in the region between the jaws. The claimed actuator “reduces the distance between the jaws thereby squeezing the EMI gasket between the jaws and causing a portion of the resilient EMI gasket to protrude beyond an edge of one of either the first and second jaws such that the protruding portion of the resilient EMI gasket is forced into contact with the surface, ...” Thus, the surface that the gasket is forced into contact with, which is introduced in the preamble of the claim,

is not part of the claimed invention; that is, it is not a surface of the claimed first and second jaws.

8. In contrast, Hanson is an example of the conventional approach introduced in the Background Section of Applicants' application: "The compressive force between these mating surfaces is intended to urge the EMI gasket to fill any gaps, and thus maintain a continuous EMI shield, between these mating surfaces." (See, Applicants' application, pg. 2, Ins. 13-15.) Because Hanson fails to teach or suggest "squeezing the EMI gasket between the jaws and causing a portion of the resilient EMI gasket to protrude beyond an edge of one of either the first and second jaws such that the protruding portion of the resilient EMI gasket is forced into contact with the surface, ..." Hanson cannot be used in the same applications as the claimed invention.

9. For example, in contrast to Hanson, the claimed invention is suitable for systems that do not have individual discrete openings. One such example is introduced in the Background Section of Applicants' application: "Some blade system chassis do not have discrete openings in their front panels for each blade. Instead, each front panel includes one large opening, through which a plurality of blades can be installed adjacent one another. In this type of blade system, an EMI gasket on each blade is intended to contact a mating surface of the adjacent blade. However, some permanently deformed, i.e. undersized, EMI gaskets or an accumulation of dimensional errors in the plurality of adjacent bulkheads can lead to an overly tight or overly loose fit among the bulkheads in a fully-populated chassis. An overly loose fit leads to gaps in the EMI shielding, whereas an overly tight fit makes it difficult or impossible to install the final blade without excessive insertion force." (See, Applicants' application, pg. 2, Ins. 23-31.) The Hanson device would fail to provide EMI protection in such an application.

10. Neither Van Dyk Jr., Miles nor the other art of record teach or suggest that which is missing from Hanson. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 1 is improper and should be withdrawn.

11. Claims 16, 26, 31 and 34 have been amended to recite similar limitations to those discussed above. As such, claims 16, 26, 31 and 34 are also patentable over the art of record.

12. Given the above, it should be clear that the foregoing amendments were made to clarify claims 1 and 16 rather than to narrow the claims. The term “protrude” as used in Applicant’s application is consistent with its common definition: “to cause to project; to jut out from the surrounding surface.” (See, *Merriam-Webster’s Medical Dictionary*, © 2002 Merriam-Webster, Inc.) Thus, the amendment of the claims to make explicit that which is implicit; that is, that the gasket protrudes beyond an outer edge of at least one of the surfaces that are compressing the gasket. In other words, to project or jut out from a surrounding surface.

Dependent Claims

13. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them *a fortiori* independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

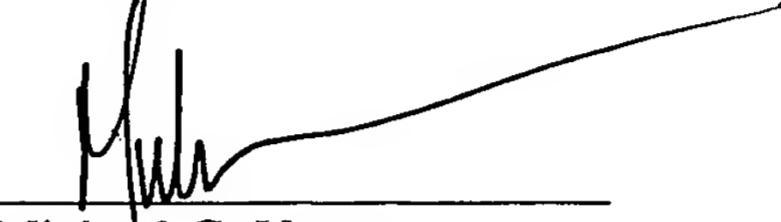
Application No. 10/667,832
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Response To Action
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Conclusion

14. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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